

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS  
LIGHT

E - 116,344  
S - 148,838

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*1 - Deal, Bruce  
CIA 1001 Bush, George  
ORGI Chamber of  
Commerce*

# Bush Calls for Support of CIA

(Related pictures, stories, Page 12-A.)

By BRUCE BEAL

Central Intelligence Agency Director George Bush says the backing of the public is needed if the CIA is to continue providing intelligence information for the security of the American people.

"It is important for the American people to understand, if we are to do the job in an increasingly complex world, it is important to have the support of the American people," he said.

Bush, who is leaving office in January, was the featured speaker Tuesday night at the annual meeting of the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce at which Holt Atherton was installed as chairman for 1977.

"I think of the CIA as a national asset that has got to be preserved," he asserted.

He defended the use of spies and said only 2 per cent of the CIA budget is used for "covert action."

"Spies?" he asked. "We need clandestine sources and covert capability," he declared, answering his own question.

One of the problems he said the CIA faces is: "We are trying to run in public a foreign intelligence gathering operation that should be run, not privately, but out of the front pages of the newspapers."

He said the agency is a target of attacks by sensationalist news media, left wing political groups and hostile foreign governments.

"Almost daily the agency is under attack," he said.

Bush, who was appointed to head the CIA in January, after serving as envoy to China, also has served as Republican National Chairman and was a congressman from Houston.

He said the public has many distorted views about the work that the agency does, and, he said, the CIA has an image of a "James Bond type of operation."

Bush rattled off a list of misconceptions he said many people have about the agency, ranging from the overthrow of the government of Chile, to "harboring relics from Noah's Ark."

"We did not!" he declared after each subject.

Bush said it is hard to expose lies, because often to refute them it would be necessary to disclose secret sources.

He said the agency is required by law to maintain secrecy in its operations, and he noted the CIA is accountable to the people through the congressional oversight committees.

"We are living within the law," he said.

Because of the secrecy, he said the daily work of the CIA, to provide other agencies intelligence data to make decisions about the security and economic well-being of the country, does not make headlines.

He said much of the information received on narcotics smuggling comes from the CIA, along with information on terrorist groups, economic intelligence and military information.

"We still provide the best foreign intelligence in the world," he said.

And despite bad publicity about the agency, Bush said, recruitment of new employees is on the upswing.

"Recruiters are back on campus," he said, referring to the times of the late 1960s when many CIA recruiters were banned from college campuses during periods of anti-war protests.